

AFRICA: 15 MAI 2018 : (1/ China and Uganda agree to nuclear cooperation - 2/ Vers une coopération militaire entre la RDC et la Russie 3/ The white farmers in South Africa taking up arms as the government looks to speed up land reform)



Muloni and Shoujun sign the cooperation MoU (Image: CNNC)

China and Uganda agree to nuclear cooperation

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy has been signed between China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) and the Ugandan Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development.

Russie/RDC - Militaire : Ce texte de loi n'a pas pu être examiné en plénière: « compte tenu du caractère sensible de la matière », a-t-on évoqué. Le texte a été directement envoyé à la commission Défense et sécurité de l'Assemblée nationale pour un examen approfondi, sur décision du président de l'Assemblée nationale.

Les Blancs manacés en Afrique du Sud

Twenty-five years since the end of apartheid, South Africa is still wrestling with its legacy. Vast swathes of farmland are still owned by the white minority, and now the government is looking to speed up land reform across the country. The prospect has left many white South Africans uncertain of their futures while landless black communities have been left wondering whether the inequalities will really finally be addressed

BURUNDI :

Le Burundi, 3ème au championnat JUDO d'Afrique cadets juniors à BUJUMBURA

SPORT – A Bujumbura, les judokas Burundi terminent 3ème en championnat d'Afrique cadets juniors

BUJUMBURA, Dimanche 13 mai 2018 – Les judokas Burundi prennent la 3ème place au 18èmes championnats d'Afrique cadets juniors de JUDO, qui se déroulait cette année au Burundi.

Cette compétition internationale PANAFRICAINNE, avec 15 pays représentés et 200 judokas, avait débuté le jeudi 10 mai 2018, par une ouverture de cérémonie de S.E. SINDIMWO Gaston, Vice Président du Burundi.

Voici le classement final :

-L' Algérie, 1er en individuels Cadets et Juniors ; -L' Egypte, 2ème (et 1er en combats par équipe); et le Burundi, 3ème avec 9 médailles dont une en or.

Au Burundi, le judo est un sport qui est très aimé, surtout pour les Burundi des collines, qui souvent s'amuse entre eux depuis des millénaires, à une discipline qui n'est pas trop éloignée du JUDO ... Dans la Tradition des Burundi, les JUDOKAS font parti de la corporation de Production des Burundi ou corps des métiers Burundi, appelé HUTU. Les JUDOKAS sont des Bahutu au Burundi.

DAM,NY, AGNEWS, <http://burundi-agnews.org>, mardi 15 mai 2018

Burundi urges DR Congo to cooperate in arresting perpetrators of deadly attack

Source: Xinhua 2018-05-15 10:55:22

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-05/15/c_137180179.htm

BUJUMBURA, May 14 (Xinhua) -- Burundi Monday urged the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo) to cooperate with Burundi to arrest militants who killed 26 people in northwestern Burundi.

Early investigations showed that criminals retreated to the DR Congo after carrying out the attack, said Burundian Attorney General Sylvestre Nyandwi at a press conference held in the capital Bujumbura.

"We have set up a judiciary inquiry commission that has been given one month to conclude its investigations. The commission should also have, in one month, to set the case before trial," said Nyandwi.

The militants attacked a Burundian village in Buganda district, Cibitoke province on May 12, killing 24 people on the spot and causing two others to die in the hospital.

Burundian Public Security and Disaster Management Minister Alain Guillaume Bunyoni said on Saturday that the Burundian government has been in touch with DR Congo's leaders to plan a joint operation to fight the militants.

Burundi : TERRORISME – Massacre dans un village de Cibitoke – 26 morts civils

SECURITE, TERRORISME, OCCIDENT – Des terroristes, apparemment venus du RWANDA en passant par la RDC CONGO (info à confirmer), ont massacré, brûlé, femmes et enfants endormis , dans un village collinaire burundais de Cibitoke, avec bilan macabre de 26 citoyens paisibles Barundi assassinés et 7 blessés.

CIBITOKÉ, Buganda, vendredi 11 mai 2018 – Selon une source policière, des terroristes venues d'un des pays frontaliers du Burundi (RWANDA ou RDC CONGO) sont entrés vers 22h, dans un village collinaire burundais, Ruhagarika, et y ont brûlé les maisons et tué 26 citoyens paisibles Barundi et blessés 7 individus, à majorité des femmes et des enfants endormies, avant de se replier en RDC Congo. Leur poursuite difficile en RDC CONGO, coordonnés par les services de sécurités congolaises est en cours, grâce à la solidarité communautaire entre Barundi et Congolais ... En RDC, SUD KIVU, la frontière entre le RWANDA et la RDC CONGO, est rudement contrôlé. L'officier Bunyoni Alain-Guillaume, Ministre burundais de la Sécurité publique, s'est rendu sur place : "On ne peut pas aller combattre des groupes terroristes en SOMALIE, laissant des groupes semblables se la couler douce aux portes de notre pays".

Pour comprendre l'émotion des Barundi, suite à ce massacre terroriste, tout le pays est en campagne paisible sur le REFERENDUM CONSTITUTIONNEL [<http://burundi-agnews.org/campagne-referendum-mai-2018/>] où, les citoyens POUR ou CONTRE la modification constitutionnelle s'expliquent démocratiquement. Puis voilà UN ACTE TERRORISTE VENU DE L'EXTÉRIEUR DU BURUNDI !

Au Burundi, une enquête interne sur les forces de sécurités de la zone est en cours pour voir ce qui n'a pas fonctionné. Le gouverneur de Cibitoke est interrogé sur les entrées d'individus venus du RWANDA ou de la RDC ces dernières semaines (RÉSEAU DORMANT) ... Mais les premières indices pointent du doigt le RWANDA et ses alliés occidentaux (USA, FRANCE, BELGIQUE) qui détiennent sur leur territoire des terroristes burundais liés au Coup d'Etat militaire HIMA du mercredi 13 mai 2015, recherché par la JUSTICE BURUNDAISE sous le coup de mandat internationaux. Entre 2015 et 2016, il n'était pas rare, coordonnés à partir du RWANDA de lancer des actes terroristes au Burundi : des lanceurs de grenades sur des civils innocents; ou des attaques des collines frontalières du Rwanda et de la RDC Congo.

Le vendredi 11 mai 2018, les USA venaient de faire une demande suspecte aux Nations Unies qui était de "surveiller la situation politique, sécuritaire et des droits de l'homme au Burundi dans la perspective du référendum constitutionnel du 17 mai ...". La sécurité burundaise se demande pourquoi les USA si ils étaient au courant de cette attaque terroriste en préparation dans un village burundais, contre des enfants et des femmes, ne les ont pas informé ...

De plus, ce même vendredi 11 mai 2018, un document suspect venant l'Union Africaine a été envoyé au Président de l'East African Community (EAC).

Dans la Tradition des Barundi, le MINISTRE et les POLICIERS qui s'occupent de la GESTION JUSTE – DE LA POLITIQUE NATIONALE DE SECURITE PUBLIQUE AU BURUNDI – , sont membres de la CORPORATION DES GESTIONNAIRES JUSTES BARUNDI – appelée TUTSI. Le Burundi est un ancien ROYAUME MILLENAIRE AFRICAIN -INGOMA Y'UBURUNDI -. Au 15ème siècle, à l'arrivée des PORTUGAIS dans cette REGION DE L'AFRIQUE DES GRANDS LACS, les expéditions portugaises découvraient l'EMPIRE CWEZI , qu'ils appelèrent MWENE MWEZI. C'est à dire l'EMPIRE DE MWEZI, nom d'un monarque BARUNDI. Cet EMPIRE comprenait : Le Bushi (RDC), Le Burundi, le Rwanda, l'Ouganda, le Sud Soudan, le Kenya + une partie de la SOMALIE, la Tanzanie, le Malawi, et le nord MOZAMBIQUE. Au 17ème SIECLE, héritière de cet EMPIRE qui avait commencé à être démantelé par le PORTUGAL, le Burundi restait le plus grand ETAT DE CETTE REGION DE L'AFRIQUE DES GRANDS LACS.

Aujourd'hui, au 20ème siècle, les Barundi sont composés d'environ 200 COMMUNAUTES AFRICAINES (IMIRYANGO), toujours en circulation. Si bien que le HCR, oubliant que l'Afrique est, et a un passé COMMUNAUTAIRE, publie sur son site , comme réfugiés burundais, dans les

pays voisins, des Barundi d'origine CONGO, RWANDAISE, TANZANIENNE, OUGANDAISE,
KENYA, ZAMBIENNE, MALAWITE, et MOZAMBICAINE.
DAM,NY, AGNEWS, <http://burundi-agnews.org>, le samedi 12 mai 2018

RWANDA :

Rwanda-DR Congo Border Records Biggest Traffic in Africa, Rivals US-Mexico

byKT Press Staff Writer May 14, 2018 at 7:12 pm

More than 90,000 people are registered daily on Rwanda-DR Congo border – influx that is of no security threat at all, Rwanda’s chief of intelligence said Monday.

Gen Joseph Nzabamwita told a security symposium that the people crossing were looking to earn a living. “Closing borders does not solve problem of migrants, you exacerbate it instead,” he said.

The three-day 6th annual National Security Symposium is taking place at the Rwanda Defence Force Command and Staff College in Musanze district, Northern Province.

The symposium is attended by military officers from several countries including Czech Republic, Tanzania, Ghana and host Rwanda. These officers are studying there for a one year senior command course.

Gen Nzabamwita said despite threat of Rwandan FDLR militias operating in Congo, Rwanda decided to leave its border open for ordinary people unhindered.

“It’s an issue of opportunities, employment...these people only want to trade. They are not a security threat at all,” said Gen Nzabamwita on the panel discussion titled: ‘Illegal migrants as a security threat to Africa and beyond – An African perspective’.

Nzabamwita said that the level of cross-border movement on Rwanda-DRC frontier was biggest in Africa, and only second to the US-Mexico border daily influx. He added that closing borders actually tends to push people to take all risks to cross – creating the security threats a country will have been trying to stop.

On same panel was Justice Minister and Attorney General Johnston Busingye, who said that as the west closes its borders it should remember “What goes around comes around and history repeats itself”.

He added: “Did Vasco da Gama, Capt. Lugard or the missionaries get visas to come here....Why should these young people be subjected to such treatment? Actually it should be a time for payback.”

“Tell me one single successful country anywhere and I will show you how it was because of migrants.”

Another panelist Malian seasoned diplomat Amb. Abdoulaye Diop also agreed with Gen Nzabamwita and Minister Busingye that if at all, migration affected Africa more because its skilled people were leaving.

Other speakers at the event were in agreement that the recent free trade pact (AfCTA) reached at in Kigali by African leaders was first major step in reversing the outflow of Africans.

The pact will allow more intra-africa trade and let people move freely – thereby creating the opportunities they would otherwise seek in the west, according to experts and policymakers at the symposium.

A representative from the US Africa Command (AFRICOM) will also speak on one of the lined panels.

Other speakers lined up include military chiefs from some African countries, former African Development Bank Chief Dr. Donald Kaberuka, officials from UN headquarters and African Union Commission.

The symposium continues Tuesday and Wednesday.

Rwanda And Sri Lanka Sign Defence And Security Cooperation Agreement

<https://taarifa.rw/2018/05/15/rwanda-and-sri-lanka-sign-defence-and-security-cooperation-agreement/>

By Staff writer Published on May 15, 2018

A delegation from Sri Lanka led by the Minister of State for Defence, Hon Ruwan Wijewardene is in Rwanda for final negotiations and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Defence and Security Cooperation.

The MoU was signed today at the Rwanda Ministry of Defence Headquarters, Kimihurura, by the Minister of Defence of Rwanda, Gen James Kabarebe and his counterpart from Sri Lanka, Hon Wijewardene in the presence of the Rwanda Defence Force (RDF) Chief of Defence Staff, Gen Patrick Nyamvumba and officials from both parties.

The Rwanda Minister of Defence stressed that the MoU signing was a way of formalizing a steadily improving and focused cooperation between Rwanda and Sri Lanka which has been ongoing even without this legal framework. “This MoU between our two countries will help explore many more areas of cooperation between our Defence Forces”.

After the MoU signature, Hon Wijewardene told the RDF press that he was delighted to be in Rwanda to seal this cooperation. “Sri Lanka and Rwanda have a lot to learn from each other as countries which encountered similar historical path and recovery. Above all, we are here to strengthen mutual cooperation between our two countries”, he added.

After signing of the MOU at Defence Headquarters, Sri Lanka Minister of State for Defence and his delegation headed to Kigali Genocide Memorial to pay tribute to the victims of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

Rwanda Defence Force has good ongoing partnership with Sri Lanka Defence Forces especially in areas of Senior command and Staff course, officer basic training course and engineering trade courses.

200 People Have Been Killed in Landslides Across Rwanda This Year

<http://time.com/5268983/rwanda-landslides/>

Thierry Falise—LightRocket/Getty Images

By Casey Quackenbush May 8, 2018

Landslides in Rwanda's north and west killed at least 18 people over the weekend, an official said, with rescuers still searching for residents buried under the mud.

That brings the total death toll of those killed in landslides in the east-central African country this year to 200.

"The four months have been far worse than other years," Philippe Habinshuti, from the disaster management ministry, told Reuters. "This is terrifying."

Downpours in the western region killed 15 people on Sunday, and another three died in mudslides in the country's capital, Kigali, the BBC reports.

Last week, residents in "high risk" areas were warned to evacuate or be forcefully moved, according to interior minister Francis Kaboneka.

One of Africa's most densely populated countries, Rwanda is also known as "the land of a thousand hills."

Other countries in the region such as Kenya, Somalia and Uganda are also experiencing heavy rain and severe floods.

Rwanda inches closer to AfCFTA ratification

<http://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/rwanda-inches-closer-afcfta-ratification>

By Collins Mwai / Published : May 14, 2018

Rwanda will soon complete the ratification process of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement and will in the coming few days submit ratification instruments to the African Union secretariat in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

With parliament having already passed the protocol, the agreement is in its final stages of ratification, officials said.

Speaking to The New Times, Olivier Nduhungirehe, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that the agreement now awaits the signature of the Head of State to complete the process.

Besides the protocol on a free trade area, parliament also passed last month the protocol on trade in services, free movement of persons, protocol on trade in goods, and the protocol on dispute settlement mechanism.

So far, only two countries, Kenya and Ghana, have completed the ratification process out of the 44 that adopted AfCFTA during the extraordinary Heads of State summit held in Kigali earlier this year.

The UN Economic Commission for Africa's (ECA) conference has called for African nations to ratify the AfCFTA saying it is a powerful tool for driving industrialisation, economic diversification and development.

This was among the key highlights at the ongoing UN Economic Commission for Africa's (ECA) Conference of Ministers in Addis Ababa.

The summit, which closes tomorrow, aims to advance the ambitious initiative to form a regional common market which the ECA believes could boost intra-African trade from its current level of 16 per cent to 52 per cent by 2022.

Vera Songwe, the Executive Secretary of the ECA, said that realising the promise of the AfCFTA and its development goals required the continent to take 'bold actions' on many fronts.

"Now we must seize the momentum at hand, to focus on how to operationalise the agreement in a manner that realises its potential to the benefit of the average African," Songwe said

Songwe noted that among the key important and urgent actions is to create the 'fiscal space' to foster public and private investment, while ensuring economic diversification with the view to creating jobs.

She noted that there are still concerns that the AfCFTA may cause tariff revenue losses leading to 'holes' in national budgets.

The AfCFTA's impact upon taxes applied to imported and exported goods, however, would be 'small and gradual, she clarified.

"These tariff revenue losses may be outweighed by the additional revenues from growth to be generated by AfCFTA," she said.

African governments were also urged to take a broader review of macroeconomic policies, especially fiscal measures, in order to ensure they are 'fit for purpose' to make the most of the AfCFTA.

"We need to improve our levels of fiscal space. This includes boosting tax revenues, improving the efficiency of public expenditure management, tackling illicit financial flows and making use of private finance for public projects," Songwe added.

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TANZANIA :

Vodafone's African Unit Seeking Deals to Fuel Tanzania Expansion

By Loni Prinsloo May 15, 2018, 11:41 AM GMT+2

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-05-15/vodafone-s-african-unit-seeking-deals-to-fuel-tanzania-expansion>

Vodacom Group Ltd. is in talks with the Tanzanian government and other mobile-phone operators about possible deals that will help the company expand in one of its biggest markets.

“Should opportunities present themselves for in-market consolidation in Tanzania, we will have a look if the regulatory environment is favorable,” Chief Executive Officer Shameel Joosub said in an interview. “We’re having discussions with parties to see if there are opportunities.”

Vodacom raised about \$225 million to become the first and only telecommunications company to so far list on the stock exchange in Tanzania’s commercial capital Dar Es Salaam last year. The share sale was done at almost the same time as Vodacom’s purchase of a 35 percent stake in Kenya’s Safaricom Plc to solidify its position in East Africa.

The proceeds of the initial public offering could be used to do a deal with one of the other seven carriers in the country, including Millicom International Cellular SA and India’s Bharti Airtel Ltd. Millicom has previously indicated that it would pursue an exit strategy in Africa and Airtel is looking for additional consolidation on the continent, making them potential buy-out targets for Vodacom, Africa’s biggest wireless carrier by market value.

Outside of Vodacom, all the other international operators still need to list at least a quarter of their business on the stock exchange in Tanzania to meet government requirements. Bharti Airtel is currently locked in a battle with Tanzanian authorities over the ownership of its Tanzanian business.

Vodacom’s shares in Johannesburg have gained 4.5 percent for the year, valuing the company at close to 262 billion rand (\$21 billion) in Johannesburg. Crosstown rival MTN Group Ltd. is down almost 11 percent for the year. Vodacom Tanzania Ltd.’s equities are down 5.9 percent since the IPO.

Tanzania: Netanyahu Expected in Dar Early Next Year

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201805150247.html>

By Abela Msikula

ISRAEL Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is expected in Tanzania early next year, according to Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation Minister Augustine Mahiga.

Briefing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on his recent visit to Israel, Dr Mahiga said the trip was all about strengthening diplomatic relations and scouting Israel support to Tanzania's industrialisation drive.

Dr Mahiga said Israel Premier will arrive in the country early next year with a strong message on investment in all fields of industrial economy, adding that Tanzania has a lot to learn from Israel, which is highly advanced in various areas.

He said among areas from which Tanzania is likely to benefit out of her relationship with Israel include modern agriculture, manufacturing, water conservation, information and communication technology, security, health and energy, among others.

"It should be remembered that Israel is a desert country but the government managed to change the area into crops bearer through irrigation technology. It is the country which misses rains for five to six years consecutively, but they ably supply water even to neighbouring countries through its water conservation technology," said the minister.

He noted that the technology of changing the desert into crop bearer is suitable for Tanzania's central areas, which experience droughts frequently.

Mr Netanyahu has promised to come up with a strategy that will help to increase the number of Israel tourists in the country from 1,000 to 2,000 annually, according to Dr Mahiga. He said Israel has been dispatching health experts to save Tanzanians' lives and treatment costs.

Tanzania currently saves about 70bn/- annually, thanks to Israel medical experts who arrive in the country to impart their expertise to local medical practitioners at the Dar es Salaam-based Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute.

Israel government has reaffirmed its commitment to continue offering free trainings in various fields to as many Tanzanians as possible, said the minister, reminding Tanzanians to grab the opportunities.

Israel confirmed its readiness to receive over 200 Tanzanians for trainings, which normally last nine months.

Tanzania

Govt Collects U.S.\$8.2 Million From Concession Fee Charged On Tourist Hotels

The government has collected Sh18.8 billion from tourist concession fees between July 2017 and March 2018. [Read more »](#)

[Read the original article on Daily News.](#)

Glencore, Barrick expect prospecting license for Tanzania nickel project

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-barrick-gold-tanzania/glencore-barrick-expect-prospecting-license-for-tanzania-nickel-project-idUSKCN1IF1M9>

LONDON (Reuters) - Global miners Glencore and Barrick Gold expect to receive a prospecting license for a nickel joint venture in Tanzania after the government canceled its retention license, Barrick said.

The retention license of the undeveloped Kabanga nickel project was one of 11 licenses canceled as part of enforcement of a new mining regulations which were approved in January.

Retention licenses are granted to mining companies that want to hold the rights to a deposit, but cannot develop that area immediately due to technical constraints, adverse market conditions or other economic factors.

"In order to transition to the new license structure implemented in January, the project partners have applied for a Prospecting License covering the same area as the Retention License," Barrick said in a statement.

The company said it had been in talks with Barrick and the government in recent months over the Kabanga project. The companies expect to receive the prospecting license but did not provide a timeline.

Tanzania is seeking a bigger slice of the pie from its vast mineral resources by overhauling the fiscal and regulatory regime of its mining sector.

The canceled retention license was due to expire in 2019, Barrick said, adding that a prospecting license would be valid for four years.

Reporting by Zandi Shabalala; editing by Jason Neely

KENYA :

Kenya warns Tanzania in sweets tax row

Tuesday, May 15, 2018 8:46

<https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/economy/3946234-4562110-kvxa2u/index.html>

Kenya has warned it will block the entry of Tanzanian goods into the country after Dar es Salaam's refusal to allow duty-free entry of Kenyan-made confectionery, juice, ice cream and chewing gum.

Tanzanian authorities have been given up to the end of the month to visit the Kenyan firms to find out if imported industrial sugar is being used in the products at the centre of the trade spat which remains unresolved since March.

Dar slapped a 25 per cent import duty on Kenyan firms in confectionery business, citing use of imported zero-rated industrial sugar in the goods.

"Tanzania Verification Mission to visit Kenya on use of duty free sugar imports on confectioneries to be completed in two weeks (May 31, 2018).

"Failure to adhere will result in implementation of retaliatory measures," said the report of a presidential roundtable.

Rejected certificates

Tanzania rejected certificates of origin issued by the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) and opted to levy 25 per cent import duty on Kenyan confectioneries.

Acceptance of the certificate — a document showing where a product has originated from and is used to determine duty for imported goods — guaranteed the entry of Kenyan goods tax-free passage to Uganda and Tanzania.

The East Africa Community common market made up of Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi allows free movement of locally manufactured goods within the bloc.

Tanzania and Uganda revenue bodies have however accused Kenyan manufacturers of tilting competition in their favour by using industrial sugar imported under a 10 per cent duty remission scheme.

The region does not produce industrial sugar. But Kenyan firms have accused the two countries of using the customs taxes to restrict trade in East Africa.

KRA's intervention

The Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) said late last month while Uganda had softened her hardline stance, the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) had rejected evidence from the Kenyan Treasury showing the 14 companies that had benefitted from the window.

"The denial of entry for Kenyan goods into Tanzania continues despite KRA's intervention to clarify the matter to its Tanzanian counterpart," the manufacturers' lobby said on April 26.

"All manufacturers (have been) requested to comply and co-operate with the Tanzania Verification Mission."

The tale of two neighbors and why Kenya must make smart economic moves By Francis Karugu

Published Tue, May 15th 2018 at 13:48

<https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001280518/the-tale-of-two-neighbors-and-why-kenya-must-make-smart-economic-moves>

Kenya has two neighbors- Ethiopia and Tanzania- that are worlds apart. Coincidentally, one of these neighbors is in the north and the other to the south. It seems like an act of God how these neighbors are worlds apart in their attitude towards Kenya. Let us start with Ethiopia. Of all the neighbours Kenya shares borders with, Ethiopia is the most genial since pre-independence days. Last February, Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn resigned and the ruling party, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front, appointed Abiy Ahmed to replace him. Interestingly, and perhaps what went unnoticed, is that Dr Abiy Ahmed chose Kenya for his first foreign visit as premier. Now, in diplomatic speak, the first country that a head of government or state chooses to visit first points to reverence with which his administration treats that country.

This should tell Kenyans how Ethiopia looks at us. An analysis of the two countries' relations shows that despite change of leadership in Kenya and Ethiopia, and despite the fact that the two countries had different colonial backgrounds and ideologies, the Kenya-Ethiopia relations remain good. Perhaps these relations were informed by circumstances. Kenya received both material and moral support from His Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie during the fight for independence.

Show respect When, in 1974, a military conspiracy by the unholy union of Aman Mikael Andom and Mengistu Haile Mariam deposed Emperor Haile Selassie, it was Kenya's turn to return the favor. The freedom fighters who were opposed to the military junta's despotism found a safe haven in Kenya. All along, Ethiopia has gone out of its way to show respect for Kenya. The tragedy of our political leadership is that it has not taken advantage of this accommodation. Why, for instance, is Ethiopia not Kenya's biggest trading partner? Ethiopia is more lenient than any other neighbor when it comes to relations, both economic and political.

Given that Ethiopia is a landlocked country after losing the Eritrean territory in 1994, Kenya can only blame herself for letting Djibouti be the gateway to her friend in the north by sea. Kenya's GDP per capita may be higher than that of Ethiopia, but Ethiopia's growth is more inclusive than that of Kenya, partly because the former does not allow a small cabal of oligarchs to dominate government tenders and monopolise levers of the economy. Ethiopia is not a bandit economy like Kenya. In a decade's time, the purchasing power outside Addis Ababa will match that of urban areas, and with double Kenya's population, Ethiopia will be a gold mine for consumerism. Kenya has not positioned herself to take advantage of this situation as a gateway to Ethiopia; as government officials swivel in the short-termism that only benefits the chosen few oligarchs and the cheerleader cabal of gatekeepers in high offices. Adolescent girl Switching gears to Tanzania, it is the complete converse with Ethiopia. Tanzania's attitude towards Kenya can be likened to that of a jilted adolescent girl. Tanzania behaves as if Kenya stole her birthright. But what is inexplicable is why Kenya invests so much time with a disinclined neighbour. No country has frustrated the East African Communities initiatives towards economic integration than Tanzania. ALSO READ: How to slay the graft dragon Tanzania has adopted an inconceivable and mindless protectionist posture that one wonders what her motive is. During Uhuru Kenyatta's second inauguration, Tanzanian president John Pombe Magufuli snubbed the event and opted to stay at home inspecting boreholes in the villages. What is startling is the amount of time and resources Kenya spends trying to salvage the nonexistent diplomatic relations with Tanzania. It is true Kenya had a head start in the 1960s, but Kenya is not responsible for Tanzania's choice of an indolent and impracticable economic programme that was Ujamaa. The only achievement Ujamaa delivered to Tanzania was brooding the cult of personality that President Magufuli relishes today. With an EAC neighbor like Tanzania, the chances of strengthening the common trading bloc and integration are a mirage, to say nothing of a political federation. Kenya's policy makers should re-look our diplomatic priorities and relegate Tanzania into a hostile neighbor, and elevate Ethiopia to the position the former occupies. Today, Kenyans move in and out of Ethiopia without any hitches, a far cry from what happens in Tanzania

with its mindless isolationism. At this rate, Tanzania is well on its way to becoming a pariah state, now that there will be a vacuum left by North Korea. It is time to harness the potential that a better relationship with Ethiopia offers Kenya. Mr Karugu is a strategy and analytics consultant based in Nairobi. fkarugu@revamp.co.ke

Kenya rejects China-EAC trade pact

Tuesday, May 15, 2018 7:48

<https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/news/Kenya-rejects-ChinaEAC-trade-pact/539546-4561812-19ewynz/index.html>

Kenya will not sign a free trade agreement that China has been negotiating with the East African Community (EAC) partner States since 2016, Trade principal secretary Chris Kiptoo has said.

Mr Kiptoo Monday said the decision, which could trigger diplomatic unease between Nairobi and Beijing, is intended to protect Kenya's nascent manufacturing sector from being over-run by China's cheaper and more efficient producers.

The current trade balance is skewed heavily in favour of China, and the proposed comprehensive free trade agreement (FTA) would see Chinese goods access the EAC market at more favourable tariffs.

"China already accounts for 25 per cent of Kenya's import bill under the current common external tariff structure of zero per cent, 10 per cent and 25 per cent for raw materials, intermediate goods and final goods respectively. "This means that China is likely to get even a larger share of Kenya's market once we enter into a free trade arrangement," said Mr Kiptoo.

China has been negotiating for the creation of a free trade agreement with EAC for the past two years.

"China accounts for less than two per cent of our exports currently. An FTA with China might improve our export share but not significantly. A preferential trade agreement with China is what we prefer...an AGOA type of trade,' said Mr Kiptoo.

The Asian economic giant wrote to former EAC secretary-general Richard Sezibera proposing to negotiate with the EAC partner states a comprehensive free trade agreement.

China also requested to undertake a joint feasibility study with the EAC on the proposed free trade area.

The EAC secretariat was expected to undertake a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis on the implications of negotiating a free FTA with third parties by June 30.

READ: Employers' body urges Chinese firms to learn Kenya's labour laws

"The Chinese people are doing a lot here especially in the provision of services such as finance, development and we are happy with that. In the area of trade, there exists a huge imbalance which is making us feel we really need to see more in the other direction," he said.

Kenya signed a double taxation agreement (DTA) with China last October to incentivize Chinese firms setting up base in Kenya. There are already more than 400 Chinese firms in the country serving in various sectors of the economy such as real estate, finance and agriculture among others.

“Kenya is ready to agree on certain commodities that China would want to import so that local exporters can focus on them specifically for the Chinese market,” said the PS.

China is the leading source of Kenya’s imports.

Kenya exported goods worth Sh10 billion to China in 2016 but imported goods worth Sh337.4 billion from the Asian country, indicating a trade deficit of a whopping Sh317.4 billion.

According to leading economic indicators by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, Kenya imported goods worth Sh175 billion from China between January to May in 2017, an average of Sh35 billion per month.

If this trend persists, imports from China will hit the Sh420 billion mark, breaking the Sh400 billion ceiling for the first time, just two years after it broke the Sh300 billion mark in 2015. High imports from China are attributed to an increase in infrastructure projects currently going on in the country such as the construction of the standard gauge rail which has taken the lion’s share of the purchases.

The 472km railway line between Mombasa and Nairobi is Kenya’s single-largest infrastructure project since independence, constructed at a cost of Sh327 billion co-financed through commercial and semi-concessional loans from China and the government of Kenya.

Other imports from China include electronics, household goods and steel materials.

SOUTH SUDAN :

Why Kenya will not to impose sanctions on S Sudan yet

<https://www.nation.co.ke/news/africa/Why-Kenya-will-not-to-impose-sanctions-on-S-Sudan-yet/1066-4561746-llm9k1/index.html>

Monday May 14 2018

South Sudan's President Salva Kiir give a press conference with his Sudanese counterpart at the presidential palace in Khartoum on November 2, 2017. He has said he wants peace in the country.

PHOTO | ASHRAF SHAZLY | AFP

Kenya and its peers in the eastern Africa region are resisting imposing sanctions on South Sudan because it could damage the legitimacy of mediators involved.

This week, President Uhuru Kenyatta, meeting with Ethiopia and Djibouti leaders, publicly voiced his disappointment with the way South Sudan President Salva Kiir and his nemesis Riek Machar have dragged on with talks as violence persists.

But Nairobi wants to stick with the circuitous talks led by regional bloc Intergovernmental Authority on Development (Igad), supported by the US, UK and Norway (Troika).

"Obviously, the President is disappointed at the slow pace of progress in the peace process in South Sudan.

"But the President pronounces himself through the framework of Igad and so we have to wait for direction from the regional body," State House Spokesman Manoah Esipisu told the Sunday Nation.

REGIME CHANGE

The Igad mediation produced a deal in August 2015, known as the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (ARCSS), that was meant to establish a transitional government for Kiir and Machar.

Its original structure collapsed in July 2016 and Machar fled.

Subsequent efforts to provide an alternative deal have been hampered by splintering of groups and parties refusing to compromise.

Sources told the Sunday Nation the US and the UK, some of the main financiers of the Igad mission, are pushing for a total regime change in South Sudan as well as targeted sanctions on alleged spoilers.

US IRRITATED

But South Sudan's neighbours, which the US wants to implement the sanctions that include freezing of assets and travel bans, have indicated such a move could spoil any remaining legitimacy of Igad in the talks as it prepares another session in Addis Ababa this weekend.

"We assess that the Transitional Government of National Unity in South Sudan is no longer inclusive.

"The forced exile of key leadership representatives who signed the ARCSS further demonstrates the Kiir regime's cynical repudiation of the peace process," the White House said on Wednesday.

"The promotion of UN-sanctioned individuals to senior government positions, such as Jok Riak to Chief of Defence Forces, demonstrates the South Sudanese Government's disdain for international norms.

"To that end, the United States will condemn any unilateral effort of the current Government of South Sudan to extend its power through sham elections, the legislature, or continued military offensives."

TRAVEL BAN

This week, President Kenyatta, Ethiopia Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Djibouti President Ismael Guelleh said in two separate communiques that they were frustrated with the violence in South Sudan.

But they fell short of pronouncing their preferred solution to the impasse.

In addition to regime change, the US has pushed the region to implement sanctions similar to those imposed on Zimbabwe, where certain leaders were barred from travelling or their assets frozen.

During a series of shuttle diplomacy meetings last week, Igad ministers told the Troika they were willing to punish spoilers who violate cessation of hostilities, unimpeded movement for humanitarian workers and total long-term peace.

But the bloc said it was giving South Sudanese leaders a chance to leader their country out of violence.

"Enforcement of the 2015 Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (ARSS) and the December 2017 deal for cessation of hostilities are key beacons in the journey to lasting peace, security and stability in South Sudan," Mr Ababu Namwamba, the Foreign Affairs Cabinet Administrative Secretary told the Sunday Nation.

TRUST

Probed on the sanctions matter, Mr Namwamba, who attended the meetings on behalf of Cabinet Secretary Monica Juma in Juba and Addis Ababa, said Igad is capable and "prepared to impose stern sanctions on individual violators", but he admitted that the focus of the bloc is to first address the mistrust between parties.

"We need to urgently close the trust deficit between the protagonists and move swiftly towards a firm deal for peace and stability in South Sudan underwritten by genuine inclusivity.

"The Igad-led peace process is pursuing consensus amongst all parties to the conflict for an inclusive government and an integrated national security force.

"This would bridge the current trust deficit, build confidence amongst the protagonists and provide a stable platform for elections."

TRUCE DEAL

The trust deficit played out this week, just a day after the UK and the US issued statements criticising President Kiir for ignoring calls for a government of national unity and promoting peace violators.

"As no party has yet been held to account for violating the cessation of hostilities agreement, the perpetrators continue to act with impunity.

"Those who have violated the cessation of hostilities agreement must face consequences for their actions," UK Minister for Africa Harriett Baldwin said in a statement on Tuesday.

"We urge the Igad to take immediate action in this regard, to leave the parties in no doubt of the region's commitment to peace."

Mr Kiir responded by accusing the donors of frustrating his country's peace bid, arguing his own ruling party had reunified with the opposition just this week.

"The delay in peace process should and must be blamed squarely on the oppositions (Sic). They have been putting forward impractical proposals," his office said in a statement.

"Part of the blame goes to the United States, which has actually been quite a real obstacle towards achieving a peaceful settlement in South Sudan."

FUNDING

Kiir accused the US of fixing their mind on one solution and disregarding all other proposals.

But the opposition alliance (SSOA), a different faction from the SPLM-In Opposition led by Machar, argued donors should in fact stop funding the mediation until Kiir stops violence and includes everyone else.

The group accused Igad of fronting proposals that protect their member state interests and trashed the ARCSS as a deal that no longer needs implementation.

Meanwhile, Igad said it is taking a new approach to negotiations by first meeting stakeholders, before encouraging separate interparty discussions.

S. Sudan rebel group denies carrying out attacks is Raja

<http://sudantribune.com/spip.php?article65413>

May 14, 2018 (JUBA) – Reports confirmed by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) spokesperson, Brig. Lui Ruai Koang that South Sudan United Front/Army (SSUF/A) carried out a series of sustained attacks on Raja and its outposts are "untrue and do not require further elucidation," an official said Tuesday.

Former South Sudan army chief of staff, General Paul Malong Awan speaks at the presidential palace in Juba, November 16, 2017 (ST)

"The South Sudan United Front/ Army (SSUF/A) is not confirming that it was behind the attacks on Mangayat and Baluka on Saturday morning as alleged," the group said in a statement issued Tuesday.

It added, "At this time, the SSUF/A is not conducting any operations in South Sudan. However, we are on high alert and shall on the due course continue to closely monitor the situation and support the ongoing peace efforts in Addis Ababa".

SSUF/A said it sticks to its point of peaceful approach as South Sudanese seek solutions to the conflict via non-violent mechanisms.

“We are focused on matters pertaining peace so as to bring back the war-ravaged country to its normalcy,” further stated the group.

Koang on Saturday accused rebel fighters loyal to Riek Machar and new rebels allied to Malong of attacking their positions in Western Bahr al Ghazal on Friday, accusation both rebel groups dismissed.

“That is not true. We do not have any military cooperation with any rebel groups,” the opposition movement said.

Although not a signatory to the cessations of hostilities agreement signed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, SSUF says it respects these treaties since they are meant to pave way for peaceful conflict resolutions.

Relations between Kiir and the SSUF leader deteriorated after the former was sacked from his post as army chief of staff in May 2017 and placed under house arrest for fear he would foment a rebellion.

The former army chief of staff was freed from house arrest in November following mediation led by the JCE. The agreement refrained him from going to his home-town of Aweil in the former Northern Bahr el-Ghazal State, but he was free to travel to any of the East African nations.

(ST)

SUDAN :

Sudan reshuffle brings in new oil and foreign ministers

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/sudan-reshuffle-brings-in-new-oil-and-foreign-ministers-1.730511>

President Omar Al Bashir made the changes after signs of economic crisis

Agence France Presse May 15, 2018 Updated: May 15, 2018 08:33 AM

Sudanese President Omar Al Bashir has appointed new oil and foreign ministers in a major cabinet reshuffle that saw four other ministers changed amid a worsening economic crisis, state media reported.

The reshuffle, announced late on Monday, comes weeks after Mr Bashir sacked his previous foreign minister Ibrahim Ghandour following his comments that he had been unable to pay diplomats for months.

The cabinet overhaul was approved by Mr Bashir's ruling National Congress Party at a meeting late on Sunday, the official news agency SUNA reported.

A presidential decree replaced his oil, interior, agriculture, youth and sports and justice ministers and a new foreign minister, Al-Dierdiry al-Dhikheri, was also announced.

The reshuffle saw Ibrahim Hamid named as interior minister and Azhari Abdallah as oil minister.

Mr Dhikeri, former Sudanese ambassador to Uganda, had been a member of Khartoum's team that negotiated the separation of south from the north in 2011.

Mr Hamid, an aide to Bashir, had previously headed the interior ministry from 2008 to 2015.

On Monday, Mr Bashir also changed five ministers of state and eight governors, SUNA reported.

Last month Mr Ghandour - who led negotiations with Washington to lift a decades-old trade embargo on Khartoum - was fired after he told parliament his diplomats had gone unpaid for months.

Before that sacking, Mr Bashir had also replaced the head of Sudan's powerful National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS).

For Mr Dhikeri, the main challenge ahead was how to steer negotiations with Washington for removing Sudan from the United States' list of "state sponsors of terrorism". Sudan is on Washington's blacklist along with Iran, Syria and North Korea.

Although the United States lifted the sanctions on October 12, it kept Sudan in the SSTL, which Sudanese officials say is hampering the country's economic revival.

Sudan has been facing financial difficulties amid an acute shortage of foreign currency that has seen the economy deteriorate.

The foreign currency shortage has seen the pound plunging against the dollar, forcing the central bank to devalue it twice since January.

Expectations of a quick economic revival were high in the aftermath of the lifting of Washington's sanctions imposed since 1997.

Washington had imposed sanctions for Khartoum's alleged backing to Islamist militant groups. Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden lived in Sudan between 1992 and 1996.

But officials say the situation has not changed at all as international banks continue to be wary of doing business with Sudanese banks because Khartoum continues to be on the terrorism blacklist.

Sudan's overall economy had been hit particularly hard after the south separated from the north, taking with it about 75 percent of oil earnings.

A surging inflation rate of about 56 percent, regular fuel shortages and rising prices of food items have often triggered sporadic anti-government protests in Khartoum and some other towns.

EGYPT :

Russia hails security ties with Egypt, promises more flights

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/russia-hails-security-ties-with-egypt-promises-more-flights/2018/05/14/1390e666-579b-11e8-9889-07bcc1327f4b_story.html?utm_term=.e0787c7982e7

by Associated Press May 14 at 1:20 PM

MOSCOW — Russia’s foreign minister says close cooperation with Egypt on security issues will help restore a direct air link to Egypt’s Red Sea resorts.

Sergey Lavrov, speaking after Monday’s talks with his Egyptian counterpart Sameh Shoukry, said that joint work on enhancing security had helped Egypt and Russia resume direct flights between Moscow and Cairo last month. The flights were suspended after a 2015 bombing that brought down a Russian passenger plane over the Sinai Peninsula.

Lavrov said the current level of security cooperation provides a “good foundation for future restoration of Russian flights to Sharm el-Sheikh and Hurghada.”

The suspension of flights has decimated Egypt’s tourism industry as the country relies heavily on the influx of Russian tourists.

The ministers also discussed further expansion of industrial and military ties between Russia and Egypt.

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ETHIOPIA :

Ethiopia in Talks With Exiled Group, Signaling Rapprochement

By Nizar Manek

May 14, 2018, 1:16 PM GMT+2 Updated on May 15, 2018, 8:55 AM GMT+2

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-05-14/ethiopia-starts-talks-with-exiled-group-signaling-rapprochement>

Ethiopia's government began talks with the exiled Oromo Democratic Front, signaling the start of a broader engagement with the opposition group.

A "high-level" government delegation met ODF officials May 11 and May 12 to discuss reforms being implemented by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, the group said in a statement Sunday, without disclosing the location of the talks. An ODF delegation will travel to Ethiopia "soon for more substantive talks," it said.

The discussions held far have been "successful," the ruling-party funded Fana Broadcasting Corp. reported, citing a government statement. The government is also prepared to hold talks with political parties that "operate peacefully and in line with the constitution," it said.

Abiy became prime minister last month with a pledge to open up the country's political space, which has been tightly controlled by the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front since it came to power more than a quarter of a century ago. He succeeded Hailemariam Desalegn, who quit in February after failing to end sporadic protests in the Oromia and Amhara regions that began almost three years ago amid demands for the state-planned economy to provide greater inclusiveness.

Power-Sharing

The ODF was formed in 2013 and is led by Lencho Letta, among a number of defectors from the outlawed Oromo Liberation Front, which withdrew from the EPRDF in 1992 amid a dispute over power-sharing. An ODF delegation was dispatched to the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, for peace talks three years ago under Hailemariam's government, but no face-to-face talks were held, according to the ODF.

Lemma Megerssa, the president of Ethiopia's Oromia region, said in February the central committee of Abiy's Oromo People's Democratic Organization is prepared to work with political parties inside the country and abroad, according to a statement on the regional government's Facebook page.

Abiy said in his maiden speech as prime minister last month that his government will "look at political parties outside of the EPRDF as competitors rather than as enemies" and that there's "an absolute desire on the part of the government to allow opposition parties to operate freely and create a conducive and fair and level playing field."

Lemma and Ethiopian Information Minister Ahmed Shide didn't immediately respond to a call and text message each seeking comment.

Ethiopia ready to ratify Africa free trade deal after Kenya, Ghana - PM

<http://www.africanews.com/2018/05/14/ethiopia-ready-to-ratify-africa-free-trade-deal-after-keyna-ghana-pm/>

Abdur Rahman Alfa Shaban 14/05 - Ethiopia

Prime Minister of Ethiopia Abiy Ahmed, has stated that the government is ready to ratify the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) deal and deposit its instruments to the African Union.

Ethiopia he said was ready to follow the move by Ghana and neighbouring Kenya – who became the first countries to submit their documents to the A.U. last week. He further encouraged other countries to do same.

While lauding the AfCFTA, Abiy described the deal as key to the continent's development through creation of employment for its citizens. Ensuring diversification and the collective well being of especially women and the youth.

Abiy was speaking during an event organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). The Addis Ababa based commission is holding its 51st Session of Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

It forms part of wider consultations on the historic deal that was signed by presidents and government leaders in Kigali, Rwanda.

Other speakers at the event are ECA Executive Secretary, Vera Songwe, deputy Chairperson of the A.U. Commission, Kwesi Quartey and head of U.N. Habitat, Maimunah Mohammed Sharif. Representatives of other international finance institutions and governments are also at the event.

The AfCFTA is one of the biggest free trade bloc in the world, maybe only behind the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The signing of the AfCFTA by heads of governments and or their representatives is only a step in chasing an ambitious dream of uniting Africa at the level of commerce.

Experts and watchers say, the real work is yet to take off, all things being equal. The fact that after all this while, some countries decided to hold on to ratification is not as much a setback but speaks to the challenges that lay ahead.

Here are some key facts about the historic trade pact

1. The AfCFTA was signed in Kigali, Rwanda under the theme: 'Creating one African Market.'
2. If all nations come on board, it will bring together 1.2 billion people
3. The estimated combine Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the pact is over \$2.5 trillion
4. In terms of participating countries, it will be world's largest free trading bloc, second round of negotiating is expected in December 2018
5. It is part of the bigger Agenda 2063 being championed by the African Union (A.U.)
6. The AfCFTA is expected to progressively eliminate tariffs on intra-African trade

According to the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa, AfCFTA can boost intra-Africa trade by 53.2%

7. Africa's industrial exports stand to benefit the most from the pact

8. The AfCFTA also aims to harmonize the efforts of sub-regional trading bloc and also consolidate gains

9. It aims at empowering especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) who form around 80% of the region's businesses.

10. SMEs through the AfCFTA will have capacity to supply inputs to larger regional companies who will in turn deal with overseas export.

11. Intra-continental trade in Africa is around 16% as against 51% for Asia and 70% for Europe, the pact aims to change that narrative.

12. Some of the main hurdles are: local business laws, security and poor infrastructure.

RD CONGO :

Vers une coopération militaire entre la RDC et la Russie

<https://www.digitalcongo.net/article/5afae9701d4d310004eff687/>

Kinshasa15-05-2018Politique - Ce texte de loi n'a pas pu être examiné en plénière: « compte tenu du caractère sensible de la matière », a-t-on évoqué. Le texte a été directement envoyé à la commission Défense et sécurité de l'Assemblée nationale pour un examen approfondi, sur décision du président de l'Assemblée nationale.

Un projet de loi autorisant la ratification de la Convention entre les Gouvernements de la Russie et de la RDC sur la coopération militaire et technique, a été inscrit à l'ordre du jour ce lundi à l'Assemblée nationale, apprend POLITICO.CD.

Vers une coopération militaire entre la RDC et la Russie

L'examen et vote du projet de loi autorisant la ratification de la Convention entre le Gouvernement de la Fédération de Russie et le Gouvernement de la République démocratique du Congo sur la coopération militaire et technique, ont été programmés lors d'une plénière ce lundi au Palais du peuple.

Cependant, ce texte de loi n'a pas pu être examiné en plénière: « compte tenu du caractère sensible de la matière », a-t-on évoqué. Le texte a été directement envoyé à la commission Défense et sécurité de l'Assemblée nationale pour un examen approfondi, sur décision du président de l'Assemblée nationale, Aubin Minaku Ndjalandjoko, en accord avec les députés.

Les membres du Gouvernement congolais concernés sont ainsi conviés à participer activement aux travaux de la commission pour des éclaircissements nécessaires. « Cela, conformément au Règlement intérieur de l'Assemblée nationale», explique-t-on. Cette commission dispose donc de trois jours pour la réalisation du travail lui confié afin d'en présenter les conclusions à la plénière.

Des contacts depuis 2017

C'est depuis mars 2017 que la RDC et la Russie se sont rapprochées. A l'époque, Léonard She Okitundu, ministre congolais des Affaires étrangères avait rencontré son homologue russe à New York. Le chef de la diplomatie congolaise avait même offert un « cadeau », un coffret des minerais rares de la RDC à Serguei Lavrov, le chevronné ministre russe des Affaires étrangères russe. Par la suite, une conférence de presse conjointe et une réunion bilatérale seront suivies entre les deux pays.

« Au menu de cette audience en tête-à-tête à huis clos, puis élargie en bilatérale aux délégations, le réchauffement de l'axe Moscou-Kinshasa dans le cadre des relations internationales notamment à l'ONU, la réactivation des accords communs pour booster les investissements, le commerce, les domaines miniers, de l'énergie, de l'agriculture, militaire, culturel et l'éducation », notaient les Affaires étrangères congolaises dans une communication à POLITICO.CD.

Politico.cd (CL/GW/Yes)

Lutte contre Ebola : des laboratoires mobiles installés à Bikoro

<https://www.digitalcongo.net/article/5afae7b91d4d310004eff686/>

Kinshasa15-05-2018Sante - La riposte s'organise dans la zone de santé de la localité, dans la province de l'Equateur, l'épicentre de la neuvième épidémie qui a été déclarée depuis le 8 mai par le ministre de la Santé publique, le Dr Oly Ilunga.

Des stratégies de coordination des interventions sont mises en place par le gouvernement, à travers le ministère de la Santé publique avec l'appui des partenaires dont l'Unicef et l'OMS, afin d'arrêter la propagation de l'épidémie d'Ebola à travers la province de l'Equateur. Des équipements et autres matériels ont été expédiés sur place à Bikoro.

Depuis le 12 mai, des laboratoires mobiles ont été installés. Ce qui offre la possibilité de faire sur place des analyses sur des cas suspects. Des sources proches du ministère de la Santé publique indiquent que grâce à ces laboratoires mobiles, douze premiers échantillons sont en train d'être analysés et les résultats seront rendus publics d'ici peu.

Le même jour, le ministre Oly Ilunga, accompagné d'une forte délégation de l'OMS et d'autres experts, s'est rendu à Bikoro pour un double objectif : évaluer la menace actuelle de l'épidémie et renforcer en matériels de travail et autres équipements les équipes sur le terrain.

Au cours de ses différentes rencontres avec des acteurs impliqués dans la lutte contre cette épidémie à Bikoro et Iboko, le ministre de la Santé a exhorté les équipes sur le terrain à doubler d'efforts dans la prévention et aux autorités locales, il leur a demandé de "s'approprier toutes les mesures d'hygiène afin de limiter la propagation de la maladie".

Le 13 mai, le directeur général de l'OMS, le Dr Tedros Adhanom, la directrice régionale de l'OMS Afrique, le Dr Matshidiso Moeti, et le directeur des programmes d'Urgences de l'OMS, le Dr Peter Salama, ont foulé pour la première fois le sol de Bikoro en vue de se rendre compte de l'organisation de la riposte contre cette grave maladie. La résurgence de cette épidémie préoccupe au plus haut point le gouvernement congolais et l'OMS. « Nous sommes très préoccupés et nous nous préparons à tous les scénarios, y compris au pire des scénarios », avait déclaré Peter Salama, lors d'un point de presse tenu dernièrement à Genève.

Dans le but d'enrayer la propagation du virus Ébola dans les provinces et pays voisins de la RDC, l'OMS va débloquer un million de dollars américains de son Fonds de contingence pour les situations d'urgence afin de soutenir les activités d'intervention au cours des trois prochains mois. Le directeur général de cette institution a été reçu, en effet, par le chef de l'État avec qui ils ont parlé de la situation de cette épidémie et de l'appui de l'OMS .

Pour sa part, le Dr Matshidiso Moeti a annoncé que quatre mille doses de vaccin pour lutter contre l'épidémie d'Ébola sont déjà disponibles. « Nous sommes actuellement en train de travailler là-dessus. quatre mille doses ont été obtenues. Nous travaillons sur le déploiement des matériels, notamment la chaîne de froid qui pourra être déployée d'ici à demain. Le début de la vaccination dépendra du déploiement des matériels, nous y travaillons. C'est dans nos priorités », a-t-elle déclaré.

Adiac (CL/GW/Yes)

RD Congo: Orange et Vodacom ont annoncé la 4G

<https://www.agenceecofin.com/operateur/1405-56882-rd-congo-orange-et-vodacom-ont-annonce-la-4g>

(Agence Ecofin) - L'opérateur de téléphonie mobile Orange a annoncé le 10 mai l'octroi de la licence 4G en République démocratique du Congo. Pour Gérard Lokossou (photo), directeur général d'Orange RDC. "Avec la 4G d'Orange, les Congolais auront accès à encore davantage de multimédia, de streaming, de vidéo à la demande et de réseaux sociaux".

Dès le lendemain, Vodacom annonçait à son tour le lancement officiel de son service 4G. Cette situation présage une intensification de la concurrence sur le marché télécoms national. En effet, au

regard du besoin sans cesse croissant des populations en connectivité plus rapide, soit pour se divertir, soit pour communiquer et travailler, c'est à la société qui déploiera le plus rapidement son réseau dans le plus grand nombre de villes du pays, qu'ira le plus grand nombre de nouveaux abonnés ainsi que la plus grosse part de marché.

La 4G acquise par tous les opérateurs vient en quelque sorte rééquilibrer les forces sur le marché télécoms congolais.

RD Congo: «Didier Reynders est à la manœuvre contre nous»

<http://plus.lesoir.be/151759/article/2018-04-17/rd-congo-didier-reynders-est-la-manoeuvre-contre-nous>

Léonard She Okitundu est vice-Premier ministre et ministre des Affaires étrangères de la république démocratique du Congo. Il détaille les raisons de la brouille actuelle entre Kinshasa et Bruxelles, en s'en prenant plus particulièrement à son homologue à la tête de la diplomatie belge, Didier Reynders.

Ebola en RD Congo : l'OMS se prépare au "pire des scénarios"

Publié le 11/05/18 à 11:49

<http://www.nouvelobs.com/en-direct/a-chaud/48767-rdc-rdcongo-ebola-congo-prepare-scenarios.html>

L'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS) juge "élevé" le risque de propagation de l'épidémie d'Ebola en République démocratique du Congo (RDC) et se prépare au "pire des scénarios", a-t-elle indiqué ce vendredi.

"Nous sommes très préoccupés et nous nous préparons à tous les scénarios y compris au pire des scénarios" a déclaré le directeur du Programme de gestion des situations d'urgence de l'OMS, Peter Salama, lors d'un point de presse à Genève, précisant que l'agence spécialisée des Nations unies avait comptabilisé 32 cas, dont 18 décès, entre le 4 avril et le 9 mai.

(Avec AFP)

Inquiétude sur le sort du colonel Tshibangu, l'ex-homme le plus recherché du RD Congo

<https://www.la-croix.com/Monde/Afrique/Inquietude-sort-colonel-Tshibangu-lex-homme-recherche-RD-Congo-2018-04-19-1200933066>

Laurent Larcher , le 19/04/2018 à 16h37

Arrêté en Tanzanie, l'ancien militaire est au secret à Kinshasa. Ses avocats sont inquiets pour sa sécurité.

Il était l'homme « le plus recherché » par Kinshasa, l'homme qui menaçait de « chasser » Joseph Kabila dans une vidéo qui a fait le tour du net le 18 janvier.

Arrêté en Tanzanie à la fin du mois de janvier, extradé aussitôt en RD-Congo, le colonel John Tshibangu croupit aujourd'hui dans une cellule de l'État-major du Renseignement Militaire (EMRM) de la Détection Militaire des Activités Anti-Patrie (DEMIAP).

Qui est le colonel John Tshibangu ?

Chef d'état-major en second de la quatrième région militaire (province du Kasai), John Tshibangu a marqué les esprits en désertant en 2012. « Il a refusé d'exécuter les ordres qui lui demandaient de tirer sur la foule », explique son avocat Norbert Tricaud. Il aurait surtout pris le maquis pour chasser

Joseph Kabila du pouvoir, jugeant qu'il avait manipulé les résultats de l'élection présidentielle et législatives de novembre 2011, aux dépens de l'opposant historique Étienne Tshisekedi (lui aussi du Kasai).

Dans son entourage, on assure qu'il se serait aussi aperçu des liens entre des hautes personnalités du régime et les rebelles du M23, groupe armé qui a conquis une partie du nord Kivu en 2012, soupçonné d'être soutenu par l'Ouganda et le Rwanda.

Menace vidéo

L'homme s'était un peu fait oublier, jusqu'au moment où il était apparu dans une vidéo, en janvier. Entouré d'hommes en uniformes, filmé devant deux 4x4 remplis d'hommes armés, il avait donné « 45 jours » à Joseph Kabila pour demander pardon aux Congolais et à l'Église après la répression de la marche de la Saint Sylvestre. Sans quoi, il irait le « chasser par la force ». La vidéo avait fait grand bruit.

Arrestation et extradition

Mais voilà. Le 29 janvier, alors qu'il vient d'arriver en Tanzanie, il est interpellé par les forces de l'ordre à la sortie de l'aéroport au motif que Kinshasa a émis un mandat d'arrêt à son encontre. Et il est extradé le 5 février en RDC avant que ses avocats puissent intervenir.

« La Tanzanie a de bon rapport avec le régime de Kabila. Il a été exfiltré par des agents de la RDC en violation du droit international qui encadre l'extradition. Nous allons saisir la cour africaine de justice et des droits de l'homme et le groupe de travail de l'ONU sur la détention arbitraire. »

John Tshibangu est-il toujours vivant ?

« Nous sommes très inquiets. On nous refuse l'accès au prisonnier : ce qui n'est jamais bon signe à Kinshasa », juge son avocat. Personne n'a pu voir le prisonnier depuis des semaines. La nouvelle de sa mort fait le tour des réseaux sociaux depuis quelques heures sans que personne ne puisse vérifier l'information.

Jeudi 26 avril, le collectif d'avocats défendant John Tshibangu doit se réunir à Paris pour livrer des informations sur les conditions « illégales d'enlèvement-séquestration » de leur client.

Laurent Larcher

Joseph Kabila et l'envoyé spécial du Premier ministre éthiopien échangent sur la coopération entre Kinshasa et Addis-Abeba

<https://www.digitalcongo.net/article/5afaad0bb8022a0004e24aa1/Kinshasa15-05-2018Politique> - L'émissaire éthiopien a déclaré à la presse à l'issue de l'audience

auprès du Chef de l'Etat qu'il était également porteur d'une invitation de son Premier ministre au Président Kabila pour une visite officielle en Ethiopie, ajoutant qu'il a également abordé avec le Président de la République les questions relatives au renforcement des relations bilatérales entre Kinshasa et Addis-Abeba.

Les questions se rapportant à l'état de coopération entre la République Démocratique du Congo et la République démocratique fédérale d'Ethiopie et celles en rapport avec la gestion du Bassin du Nil ont figuré au centre de l'entretien que le Président de la République, Joseph Kabila Kabange, a eu lundi, en son domaine privé de Kingakati, avec M. Girma Birru Geda, envoyé spécial du Premier ministre éthiopien pour l'Amérique du Nord.

L'émissaire éthiopien a déclaré à la presse à l'issue de l'audience auprès du Chef de l'Etat qu'il était également porteur d'une invitation de son Premier ministre au Président Joseph Kabila pour une visite officielle en Ethiopie ajoutant qu'il a également abordé avec le Président de la République les questions relatives au renforcement des relations bilatérales entre Kinshasa et Addis-Abeba.

M. Girma estime que les autorités congolaises et éthiopiennes devraient se concerter pour avoir un même point de vue sur la gestion du bassin du Nil, étant donné que la RDC est membre de la

Conférence de la gestion du Bassin du Nil et au vu du rôle prépondérant qu'elle joue au sein de cette organisation.

Selon l'émissaire du Premier ministre éthiopien, le Président Joseph Kabila a répondu favorablement à toutes les questions soulevées au cours de leur entretien, de même qu'à celle relative à l'invitation lui adressée pour une visite officielle en Ethiopie, avant de préciser que l'accord-cadre de la gestion du Bassin du Nil a été signé en RDC.

Léonard She Okitundu, vice-Premier ministre et ministre des Affaires étrangères, l'ambassadeur de la République démocratique du Congo en Ethiopie, Ngandu et Néhémie Mwilanya Wilondja, Directeur de cabinet du Chef de l'Etat, ont assisté à cette audience.

MMC/ACP

UNION AFRICAINE :

The African Union has come out strongly to condemn the controversial move by the United States to move its Israel embassy to Jerusalem.

<https://citizentv.co.ke/news/a-u-blasts-jerusalem-embassy-move-even-as-kenya-sends-rep-200337/>

This comes even as 12 African States sent delegations to represent them during the opening ceremony on Monday.

They include Kenya, Tanzania, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Nigeria, Angola, the DRC (Congo-Kinshasa), Cameroon, Zambia, Cote D'Ivoire and Republic of the Congo (Congo-Brazzaville).

Interestingly, Kenya abstained from the UN Generally Assembly vote on the decision to relocate the embassy from Tel Aviv.

Deadly protests during the embassy opening ceremony on Monday led to the death of 52 Palestinians and left over 2,000 injured.

On Tuesday, a statement from the African Union said the embassy relocation will only heighten tensions in the region and complicate the search for a lasting solution to the the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

“The chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Fati Mahamat strongly condemns the disproportionate use of force by Israeli forces which resulted in the killing of over fifty Palestinian demonstrators while many more remained injured,” it reads.

The African Union is backing the Palestinian people in their legitimate quest for an independent and sovereign State with East Jerusalem as its capital, Mahamat said.

The chairperson also called for renewed and genuine international efforts to find a just and lasting solution to the conflict.

This he said would be based on the existence of the two States; Israel and Palestine, within the framework of the relevant UN pronouncements.

On Monday, U.S. President Donald Trump skipped the embassy opening ceremony but was represented by his daughter Ivanka.

Additional reporting from Agencies

ANGOLA :

Angola, Portugal Gearing Up for New Military Agreement

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201805150181.html>

Luanda — Angola and Portugal will sign this week in Luanda a new framework agreement in the military, said the European country's Defense minister Jose Azeredo Lopes

The Portuguese minister announced this to the journalists Monday at the end of an audience the Angolan president, João Lourenço, granted to him in Luanda.

The agreement will cover areas related to maritime security and cyber defence, said the minister, who praised the cooperation between the two States.

José Azeredo Lopes' visit to Angola is the first of a Portuguese top official after the suspension, for rearrangement of the visit, at the request of the Angolan authorities in January, the visit of the Portuguese justice minister to the country.

Azeredo Lopes' visit had been planned ahead of a ruling by the Lisbon Court of Appeal on the case of the former Vice President of Angola Manuel Vicente, charged with Operation Fizz.

On the other audience, President João Lourenço received the Angolan singer Yola Semedo who, at the time, offered to the Angolan President her most recent CD titled "Sem Medo "No Fear."

Angola

Health Minister Stresses Nurses' Patriotism

Angola's health minister Sílvia Lutucuta acknowledged Saturday the patriotic sense, dedication and commitment of... [Read more »](#)

[Read the original article on ANGOP.](#)

ZAMBIA :

Zambia Celebrates Relocation of US Embassy to Jerusalem as SA Recalls its Envoy in Protest

May 15, 201

<https://www.lusakatimes.com/2018/05/15/zambia-celebrates-relocation-of-us-embassy-to-jerusalem-as-sa-recalls-its-envoy-in-protest/>

Zambia was among African nations that attended celebrations to mark the US embassy's relocation from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem on Sunday evening.

On Monday, Gaza had its bloodiest day in years after Israeli forces shot and killed 52 Palestinians and wounded at least 1,200 as tens of thousands protested the relocation of the US embassy in Jerusalem.

And South Africa took a strong stance against the killing of 41 Palestinians by Israeli armed forces by pulling its Ambassador Sisa Ngombane with immediate effect until further notice out of Israel.

But Zambia's Ambassador to Israel Martin Mwanambale joined 86 other envoys which included 33 from Africa, Latin American, European and a few Asian diplomats at the controversial ceremony.

This is according to a list released by the Israeli Foreign Ministry on Sunday evening.

The other 11 Ambassadors who attended the event were drawn from **Angola, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan and Tanzania.**

Notably absent from the list were some of Israel's allies and staunchest friends, such as Canada, Australia and Germany.

Other important countries with which Israel has good ties such as China, Russia, Argentina and India also boycotted the event.

Most European countries have slammed US President Donald Trump's move to relocate the embassy as not in line with international consensus, preferring to wait on recognizing the city until its status is finalized in talks with the Palestinians.

On Monday, the new US embassy was officially inaugurated in the capital's Arnona neighborhood.

"Seventy years ago, the United States, under President Harry S Truman, became the first nation to recognize the State of Israel," the US State Department said in a statement Saturday.

"Moving our Embassy is not a departure from our strong commitment to facilitate a lasting peace deal; rather it is a necessary condition for it. We are not taking a position on final status issues, including the specific boundaries of Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem, nor on the resolution of contested borders."

Citing Trump's December 6 speech, the statement said that "the historic opening of our embassy recognizes the reality that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and the seat of its government."

The US Consulate General on Jerusalem's Agron Street will continue to operate as an "independent mission with an unchanged mandate responsible for U.S. relations with the Palestinians and the Palestinian Authority," the statement went on.

And South Africa has taken a strong stance against the killing of 41 Palestinians by Israeli armed forces by pulling its Ambassador Sisa Ngombane with immediate effect until further notice out of Israel.

"Given the indiscriminate and gravity of the latest Israeli attack, the South African government has taken a decision to recall Ambassador Sisa Ngombane with immediate effect until further notice," Department of International Relations spokesperson Ndivhuwo Mabaya said on Monday.

Mabaya said the attack also resulted in scores of Palestinian citizens being injured.

He said government condemned "in the strongest terms possible the latest act of violent aggression carried out by Israeli armed forces along the Gaza border".

"[This] led to the deaths of over 40 [people] killed following a peaceful protest against the provocative inauguration of the US embassy in Jerusalem," he said.

Mabaya said South Africa reiterated its view that the Israeli Defence Force "must withdraw from the Gaza Strip and bring to an end the violent and destructive incursions into Palestinian territories".

Government in collaboration with the Chinese government to launch the Village TV project

May 14, 2018

<https://www.lusakatimes.com/2018/05/14/government-in-collaboration-with-the-chinese-government-to-launch-the-village-tv-project/>

Minister of Information and broadcasting Dora Siliya has stated that the Government in collaboration with the Chinese government will soon be embarking on the Village TV programme which will benefit over 10,000 villages across the African Continent and 500 Villages in Zambia.

The Minister stated that this was part of the broad digital Migration agenda.

And Hon Siliya who is also Chief Government Spokesperson stated that what this entailed was that government with the support of China would provide communal television facilities in a number of villages which would assist the rural community to access Television facilities.

"This is part of the bigger agenda to provide universal Television access in Zambia within the next two years. " She said .

She stated that the digital Migration itself would be completed in december of 2019 and that it was hoped by government that by that time, there would be universal television access in Zambia.

" This to me is a pre requisite for Citizens in a democracy, to be able to engage government and each other . " She said

" I think that provision of television for entertainment, for News and Information, is a very important cornerstone for democracy." She added.*

She stated that the development was a good achievement for Zambians which they needed to be proud of because to have universal television coverage was going to be a real milestone as it stood to bring a lot of benefits to the social , economic development agenda of the country.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Information has reechoed governments commitment to improving the ICT sector in the country.

“We believe that the growth of the ICT sector will bring rapid improvement in the social and economic development of our Country.” She said.

Hon Siliya however noted that the communications Ministry had experienced a lot of challenges with the growth of the ICT sector .

She stated that 25 years ago , there was no internet nor Smart Phones in the Nation and that with the advent of technology now, clearly new policy direction had to be provided as well as governance in terms of the sector.

” With this new technology that is accessible to a lot of Citizens globally as well as in Zambia, we must look at means of protecting the citizens especially the Children. ” She said .

She stated that such were the issues that the Ministry of transport and communications and ZICTA had been grappling with.

” As you are aware as Media, the growth of the sector has brought about a lot of threats that have been posed around the world. Threats against governments, threats against financial transactions, threats to data protection and management as well as all manner of threats that have emerged as a result of ICT growth has made it even more clear to us as government that we need more reforms so that our citizens can continue to enjoy this sector.” She said .

The Minister said this at a press briefing at Government Complex this Morning.

UGANDA :

China and Uganda agree to nuclear cooperation

14 May 2018

<http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/NP-China-and-Uganda-agree-to-nuclear-cooperation-1405184.html>

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy has been signed between China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) and the Ugandan Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development. The parties will give priority to cooperation in applying nuclear technology in medicine, agriculture and industry.

The MoU was signed in Beijing on 11 May by CNNC Chairman Wang Shoujun and Ugandan Minister of Energy Irene Muloni.

At the meeting, Shoujun gave a presentation on the history of CNNC, the nuclear supply chain, the construction of the demonstration Hualong One units and the development of overseas markets. He highlighted the company's capabilities in the application of nuclear technology and expressed willingness to share this with Uganda. He said the use of nuclear technology would help Uganda raise its infrastructure capabilities and improve its people's living standards.

Muloni introduced Uganda's energy and mineral resources, and emphasised that nuclear power development had been included in the country's long-term energy development plan. She said that CNNC's capabilities in the nuclear and non-nuclear sectors were in line with Uganda's industrial development needs and that the country was willing to conduct in-depth cooperation with the company.

The text of a draft MoU between the Ugandan ministry and CNNC was agreed upon during a May 2017 visit of a delegation from Uganda led by Prisca Boonabantu, undersecretary in the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development. That visit followed a visit of Chinese officials to Kampala in March 2016.

During last year's visit, Boonabantu noted that Uganda's Vision 2040 roadmap incorporated the development of nuclear energy as part of the country's future energy mix.

"Plans have been made in Uganda to have clean and safe energy generation sources with nuclear being one of them," she said. The country, she added, welcomes partners to help construct, train and develop nuclear energy in line with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) standards.

In June 2017, Uganda's Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development signed an MoU on nuclear energy cooperation with Russian state nuclear corporation Rosatom.

Uganda's Atomic Energy Bill came into effect in 2008, to regulate the use of ionising radiation and provide a framework to develop nuclear power generation. In October of that year, Uganda signed up to the IAEA's Country Programme Framework, which provides a frame of reference for planning medium-term technical cooperation between an IAEA member state and the Agency, and identifies priority areas where the transfer of nuclear technology and technical cooperation resources will be directed to support national development goals.

Researched and written
by World Nuclear News

Slavery allegations: Uganda recalls UAE diplomat

<http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Slavery-Uganda-UAE-diplomat-Nimisha-Madhvani-Isaac-Sebulime/688334-4560182-95aj42z/index.html>

By Monitor Reporter - Monday May 14 2018

Uganda's Ambassador to United Arab Emirates (UAE), Ms Nimisha Madhvani has been recalled following reported protests by the Arab state over her conduct.

"I have been directed to instruct you to report to the headquarters immediately for consultations," a May 10 recall letter by Ambassador Isaac Sebulime, the acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs reads in part. "You should hand over to Mr Sam Omara who will be in charge of the mission as Charge De' Affaires while you are away."

Reports say, Ms Madhvani's troubles stem from the April invitation of Ugandan MPs to UAE where she allegedly claimed Ugandan girls were being sold in slave markets.

The MPs reportedly expressed disappointment over "slavery and trafficking of Ugandans in the UAE."

The MPs raised the concern to Ministry for Internal Affairs officials led by the Minister, Hon Jeje Odongo while appearing before the Committee of Defence and Internal Affairs in last month.

"By copy of this letter, the accounting officer is directed to facilitate your travel accordingly. Your urgent action will be highly appreciated," Ambassador Sebulime's letter reads.

Ms Madhvani has served as Uganda's ambassador to the UAE since 2017.

Prior to that, she served as Uganda's Ambassador to France, Spain, Portugal and UNESCO, based in Paris.

She was born in Uganda in 1959 to Meena Madhvani and Jayant Madhvani, both Ugandan citizens of Indian descent.

Only 40 Cuban doctors ready for Uganda jobs, says minister

<http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/-40-Cuban-doctors-Uganda-jobs-Ruth-Aceng-Finance/688334-4560002-104c10ez/index.html>

Monday May 14 2018

Health Minister Jane Ruth Aceng (2nd left) commissions a specialised, ambulance for persons with disabilities during a free health camp organised by Norvik Hospital in celebration of Mothers Day in Kampala yesterday. PHOTO BY STEPHEN OTAGE

By STEPHEN OTAGE

Kampala- The Ministry of Health has said it is waiting for Cabinet approval to import 40 specialised doctors from Cuba out of the initial 200 expected.

The new arrivals will be sent to rural parts of the country that Ugandan doctors allegedly shun. In an interview yesterday, Health Minister Jane Ruth Aceng said the importation of the doctors is a collaboration between Uganda and Cuba and that the arrangement has been misrepresented and blown out of proportion.

Uganda, she said, is in urgent need of specialists to handle patients who present with severe complications in remote areas where the government has failed to attract and retain indigenous professionals.

“Definitely, there are places where we have had a challenge of attracting and retaining Ugandan doctors because they lack social services such as schools and ICT for research but the Cubans are willing to go there,” she said, adding that the expatriates will earn like their Ugandan counterparts.

New strategy

Asked whether government has also addressed the challenges of equipment and conducive working environment, Ms Aceng said they have designed a new strategy and policy for regionalised emergency services where government is working with the private sector to ensure that healthcare services are available to every citizen.

“We are aware of the staffing challenges and we are enhancing salaries beginning next financial year so that we start massive recruitment to fill in the gaps, government has a comprehensive plan to avail equipment in regional referral hospitals,” she said.

This proclamation flies in the face of instructions by the Ministry of Finance to government ministries, departments and agencies not to recruit new staff because the money from the public purse is only available for enhancement of salaries of existing public service employees, not new staff.

In December last year, this newspaper broke the story of government’s plan to import 200 Cuban doctors, attracting strong criticism from a cross-section of the population, including the medical fraternity.

While commissioning a specialised ambulance for persons with disabilities at City Square yesterday, the minister said the government is strengthening its collaboration with the private sector in provision of public services.

According to Mr Gouda Kishore, the chairman Norvik Group, they fly in super-specialised doctors from different parts of the world to conduct complicated surgeries and other forms of treatment.

This, he said, reduces the costs incurred by patients for overseas treatment. India is the main destination for Ugandans seeking advanced medical services.

The government has transformed a part of Mulago National Referral Hospital into a super-specialised unit, without a budget line for new staff, and the facility's planned operation later this year coincides with importation of Cuban specialists.

READ: How deal to import Cuban doctors began

Norvik Hospital yesterday organised a free health camp to celebrate Mothers' Day and launch a specialised ambulance for persons with disabilities and the elderly.

editorial@ug.nationmedia.com

MOZAMBIQUE :

What's the future for Mozambique's RENAMO party?

<http://www.africanews.com/2018/05/14/what-s-the-future-for-mozambique-s-renamo-party/>

with Jerry Bambi 14/05 -

It is the end of an era. Afonso Dhlakama, the man who led the country's opposition for almost 40 years, died suddenly in his Gorongosa bush camp.

Dhlakama led Renamo, which was created in 1976, through a brutal civil war against the Marxist-inspired Frelimo government until the conflict ended in 1992.

The 16-year war devastated the economy and left one million people dead.

He then transformed Renamo into a political party which has participated in elections since the first multi-party democratic vote in October 1994.

Mozambique: EU provides €45 mn in aid

<http://www.macaubusiness.com/mozambique-eu-provides-e45-mn-aid/>

The European Union (EU) has signed off on total funding to Mozambique €45 million, the Mozambican Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (MNEC) said on Tuesday.

Maputo, Mozambique – The aid is in the form of “non-reimbursable” support and is part of “the resources allocated by the EU to the country through the European Development Fund (EDF) for the Bilateral Cooperation Programme in the 2014-2020 period,” it added.

The funding will be channeled through four funding lines.

The figure is earmarked for the preparation of projects and institutional support to the energy sector and the programme to support public finance management.

A project to support mitigation and adaptation to climate change will also benefit, at a time when Mozambique has been affected by extreme events such as droughts and floods.

Part of the money will also be used to boost the second phase of the programme to support non-state bodies in civil society.

The EU is part of a group of donors that cancelled direct support for the Mozambican state budget after US\$2 billion in hidden debts were discovered in 2016.

However, the EU continues to provide support to specific sectors.

China supports Mozambican agricultural campaign with US\$10 million donation

15 May 2018 | China | Mozambique

<https://macaohub.com.mo/2018/05/15/pt-china-ajuda-campanha-agricola-de-mocambique-com-doacao-de-10-milhoes-de-dolares/>

China has donated US\$10 million to Mozambique to support the current agricultural campaign, the Chinese ambassador to Mozambique said in Boane, near Maputo, during a visit by the chairman of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress of China, Li Zhanshu, to the Mozambique-China Centre for Research and Transfer of Agricultural Technology.

Ambassador Su Jian highlighted agriculture and food security as priority sectors of China's support to Mozambique and recalled that five major Chinese companies are present in the country, notably in agriculture, food security, infrastructure and access roads.

Su also said that Chinese companies have made a contribution to developing Mozambique, thereby helping the Mozambican economy to become sustainable.

The ambassador also said that the visit of the chairman of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress of China is "of paramount importance, happening at a time when bilateral cooperation has been cemented at the highest level."

The first deputy speaker of the Mozambican parliament, António Amélia, stressed that China has already financed training for more than 50 parliamentary officials in areas such as parliamentary management and information and communication technologies. (macaohub)

MALAWI :

Malawi: energy minister switches on Msosa Power Line

May 15, 2018

<https://www.esi-africa.com/malawian-minister-switches-on-msosa-power-line/>

The Minister of Energy, Natural Resources and Mining, Aggrey Massi, has officially switched on the Msosa Power Line to mark the official lighting of Gawanani Trading Centre in Traditional Authority Nkula in Machinga.

The power line forms part of the Malawi Rural Electrification Programme (Marep) Phase 8, which seeks to increase access to electricity in rural and peri-urban communities.

The programme is expected to boost businesses in rural areas and help cooperatives preserve their products.

Speaking to the Nyasa Times at the switching-on ceremony of the power line held at Gawanani Health Centre in Machinga District, the minister reiterated government's commitment to end power black-outs in the country.

He said: "The switching on of this power line demonstrates government's commitment to provide more Malawians with electricity including those living in rural areas."

He noted that electricity is a catalyst for development, adding that through MAREP 8, government is electrifying 336 trading centres across the country.

So far, it is reported that MAREP 8 has electrified seven other trading centres in Machinga namely Mtambo, Mangamba, Ntholowa, Chiguni, Chabwera and Nanyumbu.
Msosa Power Line

Speaking during the occasion, Paramount Chief Kawinga commended government for the installation of the power line, saying electricity is likely to transform people's lives in the area.

Kawinga said: "... this day marks the new beginning of life for people of Gawanani and surrounding areas. They will now be able to do their businesses even during odd hours.

"For sure, young people are likely to venture into small and medium business through this project. For this, we are very grateful to government for considering us."

He also appealed with government to consider electrifying other rural areas in the district as the program advances

ZIMBABWE :

Mnangagwa says Sinosteel to invest \$1bn in Zimbabwe

The Chinese firm plans to build three additional furnaces at its majority-owned Zimasco business.
<http://ewn.co.za/2018/05/15/sinosteel-to-invest-usd1bn-in-zimbabwe-lift-ferrochrome-output>
Reuters | about 6 hours ago

HARARE - China's Sinosteel Corporation has agreed to invest \$1 billion in Zimbabwe to build a power plant and increase ferrochrome output, the country's President Emmerson Mnangagwa said on Monday.

Sinosteel president Andong Liu said the Chinese firm planned to build three additional furnaces at its majority-owned Zimasco business, which would raise ferrochrome output by 120,000 tonnes over the next five years to 300,000 tonnes per year.

Andong said he saw ferrochrome output from Zimasco at 500,000 tonnes annually in ten years' time.

Sinosteel also plans to build a 400 megawatt coalbed methane-fired power plant in western Zimbabwe, the firm's president added at a news conference with Mnangagwa.

"We will continue to review our process to facilitate investment inflows as well as ease of doing business," Mnangagwa said after the signing of the investment agreement.

Mnangagwa, who came to power in November after a de facto military coup ended Robert Mugabe's 37-year rule, has promised to rebuild the economy by opening it up to foreign investors.

SOUTH AFRICA :

South Africa pulls ambassador out of Israel over Gaza violence

<https://mg.co.za/article/2018-05-15-south-africa-pulls-ambassador-out-of-israel-over-gaza-violence>

Kaveel Singh 15 May 2018 07:59

South Africa has taken a strong stance against the killing of scores of Palestinians by Israeli armed forces by pulling the SA ambassador out of Israel.

“Given the indiscriminate [nature] and gravity of the latest Israeli attack, the South African government has taken a decision to recall Ambassador Sisa Ngombane with immediate effect until further notice,” Department of International Relations spokesperson Ndivhuwo Mabaya said on Monday.

Mabaya said the attack also resulted in scores of Palestinian citizens being injured.

He said government condemned “in the strongest terms possible the latest act of violent aggression carried out by Israeli armed forces along the Gaza border”.

“[This] led to the deaths of over 40 [people] killed following a peaceful protest against the provocative inauguration of the US embassy in Jerusalem,” he said.

Mabaya said South Africa reiterated its view that the Israeli Defence Force “must withdraw from the Gaza Strip and bring to an end the violent and destructive incursions into Palestinian territories”.

“South Africa maintains further that the violence in the Gaza Strip will stand in the way of rebuilding Palestinian institutions and infrastructure.”

Mabaya said government reiterates calls made by several member states of the United Nations calling for an independent inquiry into the killings, with a view to holding to account those who are responsible.

Monday marked the deadliest day of violence since the 2014 cross border war.

The South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) and the SA Zionist Federation (SAZF) issued a statement on Monday, saying the government’s decision to withdraw the SA ambassador smacked of gross double-standards against the Jewish state.

It said while it regretted the loss of civilian life, it recognised that Israel had the right to protect itself and its borders.

“By withdrawing its Ambassador, South Africa is essentially walking away from playing any meaningful role in finding a sorely needed resolution to the conflict. The rhetoric used by the government has already spilled into anti-semitic comment on various social media platforms and the biggest losers are the South African Jewish community, and other peace loving South Africans”, read the statement.

The SAJBD and the SAZF called on the government to reconsider its decision immediately.

South African group under fire for lobbying US for white rights

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/05/south-african-group-fire-lobbying-white-rights-180514054424008.html>

A group representing many white Afrikaners has gone to the US to lobby for the interests of white farmers.

by Azad Essa 6 hours ago

New York City - A South African organisation that represents many white Afrikaners, has come under fire over their decision to travel to the United States to lobby for the interests of the Afrikaner community.

The group, Afriforum, who describe themselves as a civil rights group, but who have also called apartheid a "so-called historical injustice", are currently in the US to lobby government officials about the murders of white farmers and to warn investors about the ruling African National Congress (ANC) party's proposed plan to expropriate land without compensation.

Max du Preez, a veteran journalist and author based in Cape Town, said the idea that a tiny lobby group like Afriforum made up of around 200,000 paid members, could attempt to pressure the US government into deciding how South Africa resolves its land issue, was ridiculous.

"It's like an organisation from the US coming to [South African] President Cyril Ramaphosa and asking for help with [US President] Donald Trump's gun control laws," du Preez told Al Jazeera.

Since early May, Kallie Kriel and Ernst Roots, the CEO and deputy CEO of Afriforum respectively, have traveled across the US to meet think-tanks, policymakers and journalists.

Last week they met John Bolton, the national security adviser to the US president, staffers with Republican Senator Ted Cruz, and spent time on Tucker Carlson's show on Fox News.

For many South Africans, the group's decision to take this issue to the US government and caution foreign investors was outrageous enough; the decision to meet Bolton or Cruz, was ample confirmation that the group was a mouthpiece for racist Afrikaners.

"Their role is to create a panic, peddle in fear. They say the government is going to take away all farms. It is a fundamentally racist group of people," du Preez said.

On social media, others berated the group for its meetings in the US. In a tweet, Adam Habib, Wits University vice-chancellor, said Afriforum's "associations in the US prove what disgusting human beings you truly are".

But Afriforum denies they had met with white supremacists in the US.

"We do not know the entire background of the people we have met, but none of the people we have spoken with have said anything that could remotely be interpreted as an expression of white nationalism," Roots of the Afriforum told Al Jazeera.

When pressed on who else the group had met on their visit, Roots wouldn't say.

"I am unfortunately not at liberty to provide you with a list of people we spoke with, for reasons of confidentiality."

The question of land

White South Africans, who make up 8.9 percent of the population, own 73 percent of agricultural land. The ANC-led government is regularly berated by civil society and opposition parties for its slow land reform policy.

The question of land, especially in a climate of heightened inequality, unemployment and poverty, has become highly politicised. President Ramaphosa calls the forced dispossession of land during colonialism as the "original sin" that must be resolved.

In December, the ANC announced that it would be seeking expropriation of land without compensation. But in order to give effect to this new policy, government would need to amend Section 25 of the constitution. As of now, it is unclear when the constitution will be changed, if at all.

Elmien du Plessis, an associate professor in law at the North-West University in South Africa, told Al Jazeera that the way in which Afriforum has framed the question of land is what has caused the outrage.

"In South Africa, we are busy with a democratic process of looking at whether we need to change the constitution (to provide for the expropriation of land without compensation) in order to fulfill the constitutional obligation of land reform.

"It is a very precarious process, but the table has been opened and all parties invited, and the brief is fairly wide. This is an inclusive process, and the feeling is just that we as a country are trying to solve this process inclusively, while the perception is that Afriforum looks at their members' interest in isolation, and in a way that excludes," du Plessis said.

Roots says that the Afriforum "supports land restitution - correcting of injustices through a process of land claims, based on historical accuracy and compensation", it had little confidence in the process currently being pursued by the government.

"The South African government has made it clear that they have no interest in considering the views of minority communities and that the current consultation process regarding the changing of the constitution to allow for expropriation of private property without compensation is merely window dressing," Roots said.

The question of farm murders

In an interview with The New American, Roots said he was also in the US to highlight the "persecution of South Africa's minorities." He also accused the South African government of being "complicit in these attacks [on white farmers] through creating a political climate in which these attacks are romanticised".

He also claimed the attacks on farmers were taking place on "a disproportionate level".

Between 2016/17, there were 19,016 murders in South Africa. This means the murder rate was 34.1 people per 100,000 people of the population.

During the same period, police statistics show that there were 74 farm murders.

According to Afriforum, the murder rate translates to 156 commercial farmers killed per 100,000 people.

Fact checking website Africheck says that given that it is not clear how many people live and work on farms, this estimate is fundamentally flawed.

Gareth Newham, head of the governance, crime and justice division at the Pretoria-based Institute for Security Studies, told Al Jazeera that some within the white farming community tend to think that they are specifically targeted and forget that crime is a national issue.

The move to court right-wing groups or individuals is not altogether new. A narrative of a "white genocide" has repeatedly made the rounds on social media over the past five years.

In 2016, Mike Cernovich, a renowned American white supremacist, tweeted that "white genocide is real" in South Africa. In March 2018, Peter Dutton, Australia's minister of home affairs, recommended that "persecuted" South African farmers be given special visas to flee "horrific circumstances" in the country.

Though the idea has been debunked, the myth of "white genocide" continues to recirculate outside the country.

Afriforum does not use the term white genocide, but du Preez says the group is quite happy to have their members use the phrase or for them to exaggerate numbers if it helps garner support.

"It is dangerous to be a farmer [but] there is no genocide going on, there is no ethnic eradication going on. There is no political or racial targeting of white people in South Africa, whatsoever.

"[Black] people living in Khayelitsha or Elsie's River are much more likely to die in [violent] attacks than farmers," Preez said.

The problem, du Preez says, is that Afriforum has positioned itself as representing the Afrikaner people, who speak the Afrikaans language, in what he describes as irresponsible and objectionable.

"They have bullied their way into becoming the most dominant voice among Afrikaans people and there are many Afrikaners, like me, who don't want them to speak for me," du Preez said.

Follow Azad Essa on Twitter: @AzadEssa

SOURCE: Al Jazeera News

The white farmers in South Africa taking up arms as the government looks to speed up land reform

<http://www.itv.com/news/2018-05-14/the-white-farmers-in-south-africa-taking-up-arms-as-they-face-the-prospect-of-their-land-being-forcibly-taken-back/>

Twenty-five years since the end of apartheid, South Africa is still wrestling with its legacy.

Vast swathes of farmland are still owned by the white minority, and now the government is looking to speed up land reform across the country.

The prospect has left many white South Africans uncertain of their futures while landless black communities have been left wondering whether the inequalities will really finally be addressed

For the new series of ITV's On Assignment, which returns on Monday, ITV News Africa Correspondent John Ray travelled across the country, meeting those desperate to get back the land they claim as their ancestral homes and those who are taking up arms to protect their property.

Watch the full report in the new series of On Assignment, which begins on ITV on Monday 14th May at 10.45pm

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ALGERIE :

Morocco accuses Algeria of supporting Iran in Western Sahara feud

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/05/morocco-accuses-algeria-supporting-iran-western-sahara-feud-180513073052685.html>

Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita says Algeria provided 'operational support' to Iran but expressed desire for dialogue.

13 May 2018

Morocco's foreign minister has accused Algeria of being directly involved in Iran's support of the Polisario, an independence movement in the disputed Western Sahara territory.

Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita told French publication Jeune Afrique in an extensive interview that Algeria offered more than a meeting venue for members of the Polisario Front and Lebanese group Hezbollah, which Rabat accused Iran of using in its support of the independence movement.

"Algeria has given more than its blessing. It has given an opening, backing and operational support," Bourita said.

"In addition, some meetings between the Polisario and Hezbollah were held in a secret Algiers hideout, leased to a certain 'DB', an Algerian woman married to a Hezbollah cadre, who acts as a liaison officer for Hezbollah, notably with the Polisario," Bourita added.

Earlier in May, Morocco severed ties with Iran over its alleged support of the Polisario through Hezbollah and in coordination with Tehran's diplomatic mission to Algiers.

Algiers summoned the kingdom's ambassador at the time to protest Moroccan allegations that it played any role in Tehran's purported support for the rebel movement.

Bourita added in the interview, revealed a day ahead of its scheduled publication by Morocco's foreign ministry, that he believed Algeria resorted to diversionary tactics, such as its support for the Polisario, to shift attention away from the country's more pressing concerns.

"Let's not forget that the Algerian regime, confronted by a grave institutional, political, economic and social crisis could not survive but for the problems and tensions that it has itself generated or intends to create, in order to deflect Algerians' attention from their real concerns," the foreign minister said.

'Our most ardent wish'

Bourita, however, switched tone and insisted that a different path does exist for the two countries, pointing out that France and Germany were able to reconcile after two world wars.

"Dialogue is always possible. It is our most ardent wish ... The example of Germany and France is here to remind us. Who could have imagined, at the end of World War II that these two countries would be the engine of Europe's construction."

Last year, Bourita lamented the state of affairs between the two countries, noting that it had been more than seven years since a bilateral visit took place.

A failed attempt in 1963 to retake parts of Tindouf and Bechar provinces (present-day Algeria), territories that Rabat had long considered to be part of Greater Morocco, cast a lasting shadow over the neighbour's ties.

Analysts believe that Algeria's subsequent support for secessionist rebels from Western Sahara - a former Spanish colony until 1975 - is the result of the bad start the two countries got off to since achieving independence from colonial France, Morocco in 1956, Algeria in 1962.

SOURCE: Al Jazeera News